

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 8, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1 and 2 have been incorporated into claim 3 and canceled. Claim 11 has been redrafted into independent form, and its base claim 9 has been canceled. In addition, DICOM SR has been spelled out in each of claims 3 and 11. Claim 8 has been amended. Dependency has been updated for all other claims. Claims 3-8 and 10-15 remain pending.

Claims 3 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

The dependency for claim 15 has been corrected as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 3 stands rejected for reciting that constraints are in DICOM SR format.

However, referring to a standard in a claim generally does not make the claim indefinite. Otherwise, applicants, and the Patent Office, would face long specifications and numerous claims to capture all variations. Here, the reference to DICOM SR is proper, and does not render claim 3 indefinite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as non-statutory for representing an abstract idea.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended in a manner that is believed to overcome any basis for this ground of rejection.

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,675,355 to Demopoulos et al. (“Demopoulos”) in view of “DICOM Structured Reporting: An Object Model as an Implementation Boundary” to Clunie.

Claim 3, which incorporates former claim 1, recites, “the constraints are in Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine (DICOM) Structured Reporting (SR) format.”

Demopoulos is silent on the subject of DICOM SR.

Clunie relates to DICOM SR, but fails to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination with Demopoulos, the “providing” in claim 3 afforded by the “placing” and “processing.”

Claim 9, which incorporates former claim 11, recites a “processor configured to execute declarative constraint instructions in the document, display the document on the display device, wherein the declarative constraint instructions are in Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine (DICOM) Structured Reporting (SR) format.”

Demopoulos is silent on DICOM SR.

Clunie relates to DICOM SR, but fails to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination with Demopoulos, the above-quoted aspect of claim 9.

The Office Action cites the “benefit of trans-coding,” based on a reference to trans-coding on page 8 of Clunie, but it is unclear how the latter reference suggests motivation for the proposed combination.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Clunie in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,644,322 to Webb.

The creating step of claim 8 distinguishes over Clunie for the same reasons cited above with regard to claims 1 and 9. Webb cannot make up for the deficiencies in Clunie.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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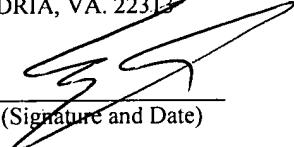
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